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Mint of the United States,  
May 27th, 1839.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th, with a copy of the Application of the Superintendent of the New Orleans Mint for an additional public deposit of \$40,000, & of your reply to this application.

The New Orleans Mint has acted imprudently in confining its coinage so exclusively to dimes and half-dimes. The number of pieces struck, and consequently the labor done, at present, is quite respectable, but the value coined is too small to keep up with the deposits. I have repeatedly urged a larger coinage of half-dollars, and this must be done. Very numerous deposits are made of paltry amounts, to be coined into dimes & half-dimes, and I understand the motive to be that these coins pass currently at New Orleans for eighths & sixteenths of a dollar.

It is my opinion that, at least in the present state of the New Orleans Mint, no more coins should be transferred to it from this Mint. By striking half-dollars they will find \$40,000 a trifling sum to coin. Our operations here, moreover, are upon so large a scale, that we cannot suffer a reduction of our government deposits without

interrupting injuriously the system of prompt payments, now so satisfactorily established. - The deposits, this month, of gold alone, amount to more than \$380,000.

You ask if I do not think the bond of the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint should be increased, as the deposits with him is so large. I would state in reply, first, that, as our mints are organized, a fraud to any considerable amount is almost impossible without a collusion among the officers, and, secondly, that the sum of \$10,000, for which the Treasurer of the New Orleans Mint is bound, is the same as that established by law for the surety of the Treasurer of this Mint, where the deposits are vastly larger.

I send herewith a copy of a letter received this morning, from Mr. Bradford. The condition of things, at the New Orleans Mint, is mortifying indeed. I am glad that it is put in a course of impartial investigation.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. W. Patterson,  
Director.

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }  
Secretary of Treasury.

P.S. — You will observe that the letter  
of Mr. Bradford is in reply to mine of  
the 9th, of which I sent you a copy.

R. M. P.